

REPORT

ON

NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE

Week ending the 30th March 1895.

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LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of Newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.	REMARKS.
BENGALI.					
<i>Tri-monthly.</i>					
1	"Abodh Bodhini" ...	Calcutta ...	About 677		
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Banganivasi" ...	Ditto ...	" 5,000	22nd March 1895.	
2	"Bangavasi" ...	Ditto ...	" 20,000	23rd ditto.	
3	"Hitavadi" ...	Ditto ...	" 4,000	22nd ditto.	
4	"Jnándáyiká" ...	Ditto ...	.....	
5	"Mihir" ...	Ditto ...	.....	22nd ditto.	
6	"Sahachar" ...	Ditto ...	About 500	20th ditto.	
7	"Samay" ...	Ditto ...	" 4,000	22nd ditto.	
8	"Sanjivani" ...	Ditto ...	" 3,000	23rd ditto.	
9	"Som Prakash" ...	Ditto ...	" 800	18th ditto.	
10	"Sudhakar" ...	Ditto ...	" 3,000	22nd ditto.	
<i>Daily.</i>					
1	"Banga Vidya Prakashika" ...	Ditto ...	" 200	23rd and 25th March 1895.	
2	"Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika." ...	Ditto ...	" 200	17th to 21st and 24th to 28th March 1895.	
3	"Samvad Prabhakar" ...	Ditto ...	" 500	23rd, 25th, 26th, and 28th March 1895.	
4	"Samvad Purnachandrodaya" ...	Ditto ...	" 200		
5	"Sulabh Dainik" ...	Ditto ...	" 1,000	20th, 22nd, 23rd, 27th 28th March 1895.	
HINDI.					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Bharat Mitra" ...	Ditto ...	" 800	21st March 1895.	
2	"Hindi Bangavasi" ...	Ditto ...	" 9,000	25th ditto.	
3	"Uchit Vakta" ...	Ditto ...	.....	23rd ditto.	
PERSIAN.					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Hublul Mateen" ...	Ditto ...	.....	.....	Defunct.
URDU.					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Darussaltanat and Urdu Guide." ...	Ditto ...	About 400	21st ditto.	
2	"General and Gauhariasfi" ...	Ditto ...	" 300		
BENGALI.					
<i>Monthly.</i>					
BURDWAN DIVISION.					
1	"Basana" ...	Chinsura ...	400		
2	"Purnima" ...	Hooghly ...	500		
<i>Fortnightly.</i>					
1	"Bankura Darpan" ...	Bankura ...	" 500		
2	"Ulubaria Darpan" ...	Ulubaria ...	" 298		
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Burdwan Sanjivani" ...	Burdwan ...	350 to 400	19th ditto.	
2	"Chinsura Vartavaha" ...	Chinsura ...	500		
3	"Darsak" ...	Ditto ...	.....	24th ditto.	
4	"Education Gazette" ...	Hooghly ...	754	22nd ditto.	
BENGALI.					
<i>Monthly.</i>					
PRESIDENCY DIVISION.					
1	"Ghosak" ...	Khulna ...	350		
2	"Sat Sanga" ...	Murshidabad ...	200		
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Hitaishi" ...	Murshidabad ...	280	20th ditto.	
2	"Murshidabad Patrika" ...	Ditto ...	350		
3	"Murshidabad Pratinidhi" ...	Berhampore ...	200		
4	"Pratikar" ...	Ditto ...	603	22nd ditto.	
5	"Samaj-o-Sahitya" ...	Garibpur, Nadia ...	1,000		

No.	Names of Newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.	REMARKS.	
URIYA.						
ORISSA DIVISION.						
Monthly.						
1	"Shikshabandhu" ...	Cuttack	.....	.....	Only six copies have been issued since the paper was revived in January 1894. Some 200 copies of each issue are said to have been circulated, but no subscribers have been registered. This paper is said to have some circulation in the Division, but the number of subscribers could not be ascertained.
2	"Utkalprabha" ...	Mayurbhunj	3			
Weekly.						
1	"Samvad Vahika" ...	Balasore	190			
2	"Uriya and Navasamvad" ...	Ditto	309			
3	"Utkal Dipika" ...	Cuttack	412			
4	"Sambalpur Patriot" ...	Bamra in the Central Provinces.	.....	.....
HINDI.						
PATNA DIVISION.						
Monthly.						
1	"Bihar Bandhu" ...	Bankipur	500	February 1895.		
Weekly.						
1	"Aryavarta" ...	Dinapur	1,000	23rd March 1895.		
URDU.						
Weekly.						
1	"Akhbar-i-Al Punch" ...	Bankipur	500	18th ditto.		
2	"Gaya Punch" ...	Gaya	400			
3	"Mehre Monawar" ...	Muzaffarpur	150			
BENGALI.						
RAJSHAHI DIVISION.						
Weekly.						
1	"Bagura Darpan" ...	Bogra	.....	20th ditto.	
2	"Hindu Ranjika" ...	Boalia, Rajshahi	283			
3	"Rangpur Dikprakash" ...	Kakina, Rangpur	300			
HINDI.						
Monthly.						
1	"Darjeeling Mission ke Masik Samachar Patrika."	Darjeeling	150	.....	
BENGALI.						
DACCA DIVISION.						
Fortnightly.						
1	"Kasipur Nivasi" ...	Kasipur, Barisal	280	19th ditto.		
2	"Bangabandhu" ...	Dacca	250			
Weekly.						
1	"Charu Mihir" ...	Mymensingh	900	20th ditto.		
2	"Dacca Prakash" ...	Dacca	450			
3	"Saraswat Patra" ...	Ditto	250	21st ditto.		
4	"Vikrampur" ...	Lauhajangha, Dacca	500			
5	"Bharatvasi" ...	Dacca	500			
ENGLISH AND BENGALI.						
Weekly.						
1	"Dacca Gazette" ...	Ditto	500	25th ditto.		
BENGALI.						
Fortnightly.						
1	"Tripura Prakash" ...	Comilla	.....	26th February and 13th March 1895.	
CHITTAGONG DIVISION.						
1	"Sansodhini" ...	Chittagong	120	22nd ditto.		
BENGALI.						
ASSAM.						
Fortnightly.						
1	"Paridarshak" ...	Sylhet	240	2nd fortnight of Falgun 1301, B.S.	* Entries based on information supplied by the Deputy Postmaster-General, Assam.	
2	"Srihattavasi" ...	Ditto	* 160			
Weekly.						
1	"Assam" ...	Gauhati	700*			

I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

THE *Darussaltanat and Urdu Guide* of the 21st March says that it is true that Lord Elgin is a perfect English gentleman, but he is, unlike his father, not a good statesman. If he had been a good statesman, he would not have squandered so much money in frontier affairs.

DARUSSALTANAT
AND URDU GUIDE,
March 21st, 1895.

2. The *Hitavadi* of the 22nd March refers to the preparations for the Chitral expedition and remarks as follows:—

HITAVADI,
March 22nd, 1895.

The Chitral expedition.

Though the Mehtar of Chitral never voluntarily sought for British protection, the English nevertheless consider him as a protected Chief. Of course, it is very desirable for Government to make the frontier Sardars acknowledge its suzerainty and cultivate friendly relations with it. But it sometimes behaves in such a way with its friendly Chiefs as to make them look upon its motives with suspicion and wonder. Thus it may be safely asserted that, notwithstanding his friendly professions in regard to the English, the Mehtar is at heart very differently disposed towards them. The object of the proposed expedition is to dislodge the powerful Chief Umra Khan from Chitral. Umra Khan has 12,000 soldiers under him, and he can, if necessary, muster a larger force, and as his men are neither Burmese nor Manipuris, the expedition against him will prove a very arduous affair. Umra Khan is an enemy of the Amir of Afghanistan, and so Government cannot treat him as a friend without giving offence to the Amir. Umra Khan has now advanced too far to recede. He cannot retrace his steps without lowering himself in the estimation of his subjects and of his enemy, the Amir. All this makes a war with Umra Khan inevitable, and the prospect is very disquieting to the people of India, who will have to bear the cost. By giving timely warning to Umra Khan before he entered Chitral, Government could have averted the impending war, but instead of doing that, it has given its warning at a time when Umra Khan will be unable to respect it. Government will no doubt be victorious in the end, and the writer is concerned not for the issue of the war, but for the cost which it will entail on the people of India. In these days of financial troubles, Government will probably be compelled to have recourse to fresh taxation for the purpose of the war, but taxation has already reached its extreme limit, and how are the people to find any additional money? O, Lord Elgin, do not have recourse to fresh taxation, for that will crush the people. Listen to the wails of 28 crores of the Indian people. You are a descendant of Robert Bruce, and if you do not protect the people, they will become helpless. We are afraid to look upon your terrific form. You have taken charge of the administration of India for a short time, and within this time you have deposed the Chief of Bhurtpur, and you are face to face with troubles in Chitral. Conduct yourself with a little more caution and judgment, and protect your subjects as you would protect your own children; and if you do so, the people of India will be saved and the good name of English rule will travel to the ends of the quarters. Do not allow yourself to be influenced in your actions by what other people say.

3. After giving a brief account of the successive wars on the North-Western frontier, the *Sanjivani* of the 23rd March writes as follows:—

SANJIVANI,
March 23rd, 1895.

The frontier wars.

When will this warfare, which has now lasted for full 18 years from 1877, come to an end? India has been impoverished by the heavy cost of these wars. If a true estimate had been prepared of the money that has been spent upon these wars people would have been amazed at the large amount that has been so spent. But no true estimate is published of these expenditures. Government has taken no lesson from the utter failure of these wars to subjugate the frontier tribes. We still advise Government to adopt a peaceful policy. Let Government send school-masters and mercantile ware to those places instead of troops and try to vanquish those tribes by love rather than by force of arms.

4. The *Bangavasi* of the 23rd March says that Umra Khan is as shrewd as he is brave. He also possesses considerable influence and is greatly admired by the hill-tribes.

BANGAVASI,
March 23rd, 1895.

The Chitral expedition.

The situation will become perilous if the people of Swat, Bajour, Dir, Banar and other provinces flock to Umra's standard. But it does not seem likely that he will be able to induce the people of all these places to take up arms on

his behalf. Be that as it may, it is certain that Umra Khan, who has been able to lead at a moment's notice an expedition of five thousand troops to Chitral, will be able to bring twelve to fifteen thousand troops into the field for the defence of his own territory. It is also certain that a shrewd man like him will be able to induce some of his neighbours to join him. The approaching conflict will thus be attended with an enormous expenditure of blood and treasure. This is why many are objecting to the Chitral expedition.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
March 24th, 1895.

5. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 24th March says that the Ministry in England approve of the Chitral expedition. In reply to a question on the subject in

Parliament, it was stated on behalf of Government that the steps that had been taken by the Government of India for the rescue of Dr. Robertson had the full approval of the Ministry. But did not the Government itself declare Dr. Robertson perfectly safe? As for Messrs. Ross and Jones, was not their position endangered by the action of the Government itself? Why were the people of Bajour thrown into a state of irritation by a hasty proclamation of war against Umra Khan? But it is useless to say anything on the subject, for no one seems inclined to listen to anything that is said.

DARSAK,
March 24th, 1895.

6. The *Darsak* of the 24th March says that there would have been nothing to say against the Chitral expedition if the English Government had been any way interested

The Chitral expedition. in the internal affairs of Chitral. It matters little to that Government whether Amir-ul-Mulk or Umra Khan is the ruler of Chitral, and the only thing it need concern itself about is that the ruler of Chitral does not commit any disturbance on the British frontier. Government did not interfere when Amir-ul-Mulk obtained the throne of Chitral by murdering his brother. Why should it then interfere now that Umra Khan is trying to occupy that throne by ousting Amir-ul-Mulk?

Umra Khan has not in any way maltreated the British Agent; he has, on the contrary, given the most definite assurances that he will not in any way injure the English Government. Why then send an expedition to Chitral? Some say that the object of the expedition is to make an exhibition of British prowess within view of Russia. But the treaty which has been recently concluded between England and that Power precludes that supposition. An English paper once said that, whenever the English Government in India wants to reward its military officers, it goes to war with the frontier tribes. Is the present expedition to be attributed to that motive?

It is very wrong on the part of Government to send such an expedition at this time of financial difficulty when no work of internal improvement can be taken in hand for want of funds, and when, in spite of the taxation having reached its highest possible limit, Government is hardly able to make the two ends meet.

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

HITAVADI,
March 22nd, 1895.

7. A correspondent of the *Hitavadi* of the 22nd March says that oppression by military grass-cutters at Mahestola in the 24-Parganas district has greatly increased since the

The Mahestola oppression. murder of one of them by the villagers. They now assemble near the Mahestola post-office and tell ignorant people that some 8 or 12 of them will be hanged for having attacked them. These statements so frighten them that they do not dare to oppose the grass-cutters, and the latter proceed unchecked on their foraging expedition. Can nothing be done to put down these oppressions?

SANJIVANI,
March 23rd, 1895.

8. A correspondent of the *Sanjivani* of the 23rd March is alarmed at the frequent murders by shooting which are taking place in the Backergunge district. None of these murders have yet been traced. It is said that on the 16th March last one Hiralal Mukherji of village Kalaskati was shot down at night in his own house. Of the persons who are being so shot down the majority are men of education and respectability. The correspondent is at a loss to understand why so many educated men are being murdered. The prospect is, indeed, very

alarming, and Government should adopt vigorous measures to put down this lawlessness.

9. The *Dacca Gazette* of the 25th March is alarmed to hear that certain drunken police officers at Munshiganj, Dacca district, cruelly belaboured, in a drunken state, certain innocent dealers in cloth.

DACCA GAZETTE,
March 25th, 1895.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

10. The *Charu Mihir* of the 19th March says that the inspection by Mr. Earle, Magistrate of Mymensingh, of the public offices under him, on Sundays and other holidays, is causing great inconvenience to the employes in those offices. These men have to work every day from 11 A.M. till nightfall, and it is cruel to rob them of their hard-earned rest on holidays. It is said that Mr. Earle inspected the Collector's office on the day of the celebration of the Doljatra festival. He could have easily postponed his inspection of that office to some other day, without causing inconvenience to anyone.

CHARU MIHIR,
March 19th, 1895.

11. The same paper is surprised to learn that sometimes, in deciding cases, Mr. Earle is guided solely by the opinion of the Government Pleader. Recently an application was made to him for the transfer of a case from the file of the Deputy Magistrate, Maulvi Ahammad, but after consulting the Government Pleader, he dismissed the application without hearing the arguments on behalf of the applicant. Such dependence on the part of Mr. Earle is calculated to take away from his prestige as a Judicial officer, and to lessen people's confidence in his decisions.

CHARU MIHIR.

12. The *Pratihar* of the 22nd March says that Akhariganj, Jijira, Maricha, Bangara, Solmari, Khidirpur, Bamnabad, Baramasia, Sagarpara, Dayarampur, Atarpara, and other villages within the jurisdiction of the Azimganj munsifi in the Murshidabad district are 18 or 19 *koses* from the sadar, and the villages on the eastern and western boundaries of the munsifi are also 14 or 15 *koses* from the sadar. In the event of the removal of the munsifi to the sadar, therefore, the people of those places will be put to great inconvenience. It may be asked, why should the people of those places find it inconvenient to conduct civil cases at the sadar, when they are at present conducting criminal cases there? The answer to this is that civil cases are far more numerous, and take much longer time in the disposal in consequence of postponements, and that summons fees for the attendance of witnesses have to be paid in such cases according to the distance. It was in consideration of this inconvenience that Mr. Beveridge, when District Judge of Murshidabad, opposed so stoutly the removal of the munsifi to the sadar. It was also in deference to similar objections that Government gave up the proposal to transfer the Lalbagh munsifi to the sadar. Indeed the Lalbagh munsifi may far more conveniently be removed to the sadar, for communication between the places within its jurisdiction and the sadar is far easier. The number of cases in the Azimganj munsifi is not also smaller than the number of cases in the Lalbagh munsifi. In 1893, Government made a profit of Rs. 73,285 from the civil courts in Murshidabad. It would be wrong for Government to disregard the inconvenience of the people from whom it has taken so much money.

PRATIKAR,
March 23rd, 1895.

It is the destruction by fire of the house in which the munsifi was held that has made Government think of removing it to the sadar. But even if the house had not been destroyed by fire, it would have been necessary to repair it without delay, for, as will appear from the report for 1893, it had become extremely rickety. Government should not also mind the cost of reconstructing the court-house when public convenience demands it. If the one munsif at the sadar is unable to overtake his work, Daulatabad may be conveniently transferred from his jurisdiction to that of Azimganj, and a new court-house may be built at Kaladanga on the banks of the river Bhairab, so as to be easily accessible to all.

13. A correspondent of the *Samay* of the 22nd March says that, since Babu Nabin Chandra Sen was placed in charge of the Ranaghat sub-division, murders, hurts, affrays, and other crimes have increased in that sub-division.

SAMAY,
March 22nd, 1895.

The correspondent knows of several murder cases in which the accused (with the exception of those in one or two cases, who were punished with imprisonment for short terms) have been let off. This has greatly emboldened wicked men, who think and vaunt that they will go unpunished if they commit murder, &c., or will at the worst be punished with simple imprisonment for a short term. Nabin Babu is a very kind-hearted man, and kindness of heart is a great quality in a Magistrate. But this kindness should be shown to those who deserve it, and not to wicked men. The correspondent requests Nabin Babu not to convert Ranaghat into a scene of lawlessness by his undue leniency.

BANGANIVASI,
March 22nd, 1895.

14. Referring to the permission granted by Government after this long time to conduct cases against Mr. Fordyce for corruption, the *Banganivasi* of the 22nd March says

that it is not easy to see why Mr. Fordyce should not have been detained in *hajut* long before this, or at least required to furnish bail. The law knows no distinction between high and low. Raja Jogendranath was detained in *hajut* and Raja Suryyakanta had to stand on the criminal dock. Mr. Price arrested Raja Jogendranath and detained him in *hajut* in order to prevent him from flying from justice, and this although the Raja has his home, property and family, in short, everything which is precious to him, in Rajshahi. But Mr. Fordyce, who is a foreigner, and who, once that he crosses the Suez Canal, will have left nothing behind him in India of any use to him, has been so long allowed to remain at large, though he has been accused of so serious a crime as taking bribes. It is not also easy to understand why it should be necessary to hold a fresh trial of the charges against Mr. Fordyce. Those charges have been proved in open court, and before thousands of spectators by a large number of witnesses, the only witnesses who spoke in Mr. Fordyce's favour being a few Europeans who are in various ways connected with him.

The writer cannot understand what this permission to conduct cases against Mr. Fordyce, instead of an order for his prosecution, really means, and whether Mr. Fordyce will be punished, or those who gave evidence against him will be proceeded against under section 211 of the Indian Penal Code.

(d)—Education.

CHARU MIHIR,
March 19th, 1895.

15. The *Charu Mihir* of the 19th March is disappointed to find that Mahamahopadhyaya Chandrakanta Tarkalankar has not been promoted on the occasion of Mahamahopadhyaya Mahesa Chandra Nyayaratna's retirement. The Tarkalankar is deeply learned in Sanskrit literature, philosophy, and possesses considerable poetic power. Government ought to reward his merit by giving him a promotion.

SULABH DAINIK,
March 28th, 1895.

16. The *Sulabh Dainik* of the 28th March has the following:—
The Lieutenant-Governor and the stopping of educational grants. We have learnt upon enquiry that it is at the instance of the Lieutenant-Governor that the Director of Public Instruction has had to forward to the authorities of the middle English and middle vernacular schools in Calcutta proposals for stopping the Government grants-in-aid of those schools. The mufassal schools too will be similarly treated. It is not at all surprising that the man who could request the Accountant-General to reduce the pay of the post of Lieutenant-Governor should do this. Is it, we ask, in his character of a friend of the students, that His Honour is going to stop those grants? We have known for a long time that he does not like that Bengali students should receive high education, and it is only from a fear of becoming still more unpopular that he does not exhibit this feeling in acts. The nearer the day of the Lieutenant-Governor's departure is drawing, the greater is becoming our fear that he too, like Sir Rivers Thompson, may have to leave this country without one word of sympathy or one expression of regret from the people. There is yet time to please the people, and we request His Honour to give up his intention of stopping these educational grants.

(e)—Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.

TRIPURA PRAKASH,
Feb. 26th, 1895.

17. The *Tripura Prakash* of the 26th February and 13th March says that, revised assessments by the Tippera Municipality, resulting in the enhancement of taxes in the case of many rate-payers, have caused great dissatisfaction

throughout the town. Enhancement would not have been so annoying if the rate-payers had received any benefit in return for the money they have paid. The rate-payers pay to the municipality their hard-earned money, but have for all that to walk on dusty and wade through muddy roads. The public do not also believe that the assessments have been made on any trustworthy basis. Some of the Municipal Commissioners too are of opinion that the reassessment should have been made by a Sub-Committee. Most probably the assessments have been based on information gathered by the municipal officers. But such information is not reliable, for it is extremely difficult for an outsider to ascertain a man's income.

18. The *Sahachar* of the 20th March has the following about the proposed increase of municipal taxation in Calcutta:—

Proposed increase of municipal taxation in Calcutta.

The Chairman's proposal to increase the municipal taxation of the town is greatly disquieting.

When the late Sir Henry Harrison increased the burdens of the rate-payers, and by that means compelled many of them to leave the town, they thought that they had reached the maximum of their troubles, but they are destined to disappointment, for if the Chairman has his own way in the present matter, they will fare worse in the future than they ever did in the past. It is now the duty of all elected Commissioners to oppose the Chairman's proposal, and if they fail to do this duty, they will make themselves answerable both to God and to their electors. The public will be glad to learn that one of the Commissioners, Babu Nalin Behari Sirkar, has shown by means of figures that the Chairman's forecast of a deficit of six lakhs of rupees is the outcome of a groundless apprehension. Nalin Babu's abilities are well known, and all his acts done in the capacity of a Commissioner are marked by a high sense of duty. It is fortunate for the rate-payers that he has been re-elected this year. Nalin Babu is heartily thanked for having clearly proved that there is no necessity for more taxation in the town.

SAHACHAR,
March 20th, 1895.

(g)—*Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation.*

19. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 28th March says that on

Publication of railway rules.

railway lines third-class passengers are the most numerous, and they are ignorant of English. If

these passengers are therefore to be made acquainted with the railway rules just issued by Government, those rules should be published in every Indian vernacular, and the vernacular versions of the most important among them should be advertised in the vernacular newspapers. Such rules were formerly advertised in those papers; but the present authorities of the East Indian Railway, who dislike the vernacular languages, no longer advertise such rules in the vernacular papers. Many get into trouble from time to time for not being acquainted with the railway rules. Many, for instance, do not know that it is forbidden to take lunatics and persons suffering from cholera, diphtheria, leprosy, measles, scarlet fever, small-pox, typhus and typhoid fevers, and whooping cough in trains along with other passengers, and that such persons must be conveyed in reserved compartments. It is rather curious that chicken-pox has not been included in this list of infectious diseases. Is it an oversight? Changes in these rules should also be notified to the public by advertisements in the vernacular papers.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
March 28th, 1895.

(h)—*General.*

20. The *Charu Mihir* of the 19th March would like to know what led the

The Under-Secretaryship.

Lieutenant-Governor to think that natives are unfit for the duties of an Under-Secretary. The writer

does not deny His Honour's four years' experience of the country, but he cannot forget his attitude towards the Bengalis. It should also be borne in mind that the Public Service Commission, which was composed of experienced officials like Mr. Peacock, who resided in Bengal for a long time, recommended natives for the office of Under-Secretary, and the Government of Bengal indirectly approved of the recommendation in a circular issued in 1893. But as it has not since that time taken any opportunity to test the fitness of Bengalis for this post, how can it now say that they are unfit for it?

CHARU MIHIR,
March 19th, 1895.

PRATIKAR,
March 22nd, 1895.

21. The *Pratikal* of the 22nd March says that, in reply to a question, Mr. Cotton stated in the Council the other day that the recommendation of the Public Service Commission that one of the Under-Secretaries to the Government of Bengal should be taken from the Provincial Service could not be given effect to for want of properly competent men in that service. When it is for the authorities to decide about competency and incompetency, the writer must admit that there are not men competent for that post in the public service. But he must nevertheless add that Government should not awaken hopes in this way and then disappoint them. It would be well to make no promise at all.

HITAVADI,
March 22nd, 1895.

22. The *Hitavadi* of the 22nd March is astonished to see some people justifying Mr. Bourdillon's appointment to the Burdwan Commissionership on the ground of his seniority to Mr. R. C. Dutt. It is true Mr. Dutt is Mr. Bourdillon's junior, but the question is, whether it is the general practice that when two officers are temporarily promoted to two posts, and one of them completes his temporary period of promotion before the other, the latter is removed from his temporary post in order to make room for the other, who happens to be his senior. If the practice is different, that is to say, if the junior is left undisturbed in his temporary post until he has completed his temporary period of promotion, why has it been departed from in the case of Mr. Dutt? It is partiality of this nature which is bringing British rule into disrepute.

III.—LEGISLATIVE.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
March 19th, 1895.

23. The *Burdwan Sanjivani* of the 19th March has the following on the Award of Interest Bill :—

The Award of Interest Bill.

The passing of the Bill will injure rather than benefit debtors. It is the high rate of interest which now serves as an inducement to mahajans to lend money to poor people, but if the rate of interest is fixed by the law as proposed, such people will find it hard to get loans. Creditors do not, in the majority of cases, wilfully show any remissness in the matter of realising their money, and it is the entreaties of their debtors which prevent them from suing the latter. Thus, speaking generally, debtors are themselves responsible for the increase of their liabilities. It is now proposed to disallow interest exceeding the amount of the money lent, and if the proposal becomes law, creditors will either sue debtors earlier than they do now, or force them to give new bonds for sums consisting of the principal originally lent, and the interest which has accrued thereon, and calculate interest afresh on such sums. Thus debtors will be practically compelled to pay compound interest. It is therefore difficult to see how the proposed law will benefit debtors. Nevertheless, the Hon'ble Mr. Roy will deserve the thanks of the public, if the law proposed by him eventually does good to those for whose good it is intended.

PRATIKAR,
March 22nd, 1895.

24. The *Pratikal* of the 22nd March says that the Award of Interest Bill is not the thing that it was hoped it would be.

The main provision of the Bill is that the interest that will be allowed by a Law Court shall in no case exceed the amount of the principal, but "interest" as defined in the Bill is interest allowed at the time of the award of the decree. The Bill, therefore, takes no account of any amount that may have been taken in the shape of interest before the institution of the suit, and therefore defeats its own object. An Interest Bill is required that will protect the cultivators. If there is to be a law on the subject, that law should be perfect and comprehensive.

UCHIT VAKTA,
March 23rd, 1895

25. The *Uchit Vakta* of the 23rd March says that the police maltreated certain Hindus of Peshawar while the latter were passing through a street in procession on the day of the Holi festival. It is only the other day that the Police Act Amendment Bill has been passed into law, and already the police has commenced to oppress the people. Who knows what it will do when it will get full power?

IV.—NATIVE STATES.

BANGANIVASI,
March 22nd, 1895.

26. The *Banganivasi* of the 22nd March presumes that it is for some grave political offence that the Raja of Nagoda has been disgraced by being placed under the guidance of

a Musalman Minister. But why the 70 or 80 thousand Hindu subjects of the Raja, too, should be punished by the appointment of a Musalman Minister is more than what the writer can understand. They too must have been implicated in this political crime, or a Musalman Minister would not have been appointed in a Hindu State. In cases like these, to prevent all possible misgivings and misconceptions in the minds of the people, Government should declare the crime that may have been committed. That would increase the respect of the people for Government. Government's praise and censure seem to have no meaning. It highly honoured the present Maharaja's father, Raghu Bindu, for the valuable services that were rendered by him during the dark days of the Sepoy Mutiny, and it now proclaims his son a political offender.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

27. The *Sahachar* of the 20th March asks the Government of Bengal to enquire into the following case:—

SAHACHAR,
March 20th, 1895

The case of the Bandyopadhyaya family of Baranagore near Calcutta.

Of the two male representatives of the well-known Bandyopadhyaya family of Baranagore near Calcutta, one being deaf and dumb, is excluded from inheritance and the other is still a minor, wanting some months, to complete his 21st year. Their estate was under the management of the Court of Wards, and possessed an annual income of 10,000 rupees. It is now managed by a distant relation of theirs, who gets a salary of Rs. 15 per month. Under his management the income of the estate, says *Reis and Rayyat*, has dwindled down to 6,000 rupees. The minor, who is very nearly of age, wanted to manage his estate himself and applied to the Collector for the purpose, as also did his grandmother. But their applications have been rejected at the instance of the manager, and the young man has been sent to a third-rate hostel for students at Hooghly, although his grandmother says that his residence there will do him no good. When the age-limit of minority was raised from 18 to 21 years, the Board of Revenue said that minors under the Court of Wards would be thenceforward taught zamindari business during the last two years of their minority, and as a matter of fact this instruction of the Board is given effect to in the case of the scions of big zamindars. But why has the practice been departed from in the present case?

28. The *Vikrampur* of the 21st March says that the affability of disposition and the desire to promote the people's welfare which Sir Antony MacDonnell showed during the

VIKRAMPUR,
March 21st, 1895.

Sir Antony MacDonnell. six months he acted as Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal led everybody to take him for a sincere friend of the Indians. But his Police Act Amendment Act has really grieved and astonished the writer. The writer once ardently wished to have Sir Antony as Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, but he is now glad that Sir Antony has been appointed Lieutenant-Governor of the North-Western Provinces, and is relieved to know that he will never come back to Bengal. Sir Antony once filled everybody in Bengal with great hopes, and no one ever dreamt that he would turn out what he has. The amendment of the Police Act has really alarmed the writer. Under the operation of that Act zamindars living far away from their zamindaries will have to pay fines for riots and disturbances committed by wicked men within those zamindaris, and those who may be adjudged guilty by the Magistrate of the district will have to tremble and weep like animals destined for sacrifice, without any hope of redress. Alas may Heaven, after this, inspire the officials with a greater love of the people! What is done is done. The writer prays that the people of this country may not have to suffer the like of this again, and that the people of the North-Western Provinces may be happy under Sir Antony MacDonnell's rule.

29. The *Sanjivani* of the 23rd March says that small-pox which is committing ravages in Calcutta, threatens to become an epidemic. Small-pox, has broken out among the

SANJIVANI,
March 23rd, 1895.

Fear of a small-pox epidemic. crew of the Port Commissioners' steamer, the *Resolute*. People are carrying away the seeds of the disease from Calcutta into the villages. The practice of inoculation has been abolished, but it is only at intervals of many years that vaccinators are sent to the villages. A small-pox epidemic is, therefore, likely to do great havoc there. The writer is informed that small-pox has made its appearance in certain villages within the Badla thana of the Mymensingh

district. No vaccinators have come to those villages within the last six or seven years. Many children have been born in those villages since the vaccinator's last visit. It is to be feared that many other villages are in the same predicament. The District Magistrates and the Sanitary Commissioner should see to the vaccination of the people of the villages.

HINDI BANGAVASI,
March 25th, 1895.

30. The *Hindi Bangavasi* of the 25th March says that India is inhabited chiefly by Hindus and Musalmans. The Hindus have been for ages a subject-people, and therefore they love peace and law. But it is only since the commencement of English rule that the Musalmans have been a subject-people, and they are therefore still unruly and consequently aggressive in their affrays with the Hindus. It is, therefore, a matter of regret that, knowing all this, the Government gives indulgence to the Musalmans. Government came to know by enquiry that in almost all the Hindu-Musalman riots which took place in preceding years, the Musulmans were invariably the aggressors, but still the official class laid the blame at the door of the Hindus and subjected them to the rigours of the law. All this indicates that Government is favourably disposed to the Musalmans and is opposed to the Hindus.

Government on the Hindu-Musalman riots.

ASSAM PAPERS.

SRIHATTAVASI,
Second fortnight of
Falgun.

31. The *Srihattavasi* for the second fortnight of Falgun says that the annual revenue of the Assam Government is Rs. 1,24,13,745, but its expenditure on education during 1893-94 amounted only to Rs. 1,87,060, that is to say, to hardly one and a half per cent. of its revenue. In no civilised country is the Government so niggardly in the matter of educational expenditure. Some years ago the writer suggested to the Director of Public Instruction, Assam, the advisability of making arrangements for gymnastic exercises in the Sylhet Government School. The Director replied that he had submitted to Government a plan relating to that matter, but had not received any reply. It does not seem that Government will ever sanction that plan. Such indifference on the part of Government in educational matters is unpardonable.

The Assam Government's expenditure on education.

CHUNDER NATH BOSE,

Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,
The 30th March 1895.